

When we met in October, I was very impressed by your willingness and determination to address the longstanding problems in your city, and I sent Secretary Cisneros and an interagency task force to St. Petersburg. And as you know, they and your community leaders have agreed that more Federal involvement is necessary. And we've had some recommendations for action that involve a real partnership among Federal agencies, city officials, community leaders. And with that in mind, I have directed the Federal agencies, through their representatives here at the White House—and they're all gathered here—to begin with the proposed initiatives in the November 25th memo that Secretary Cisneros sent me.

A Federal coordinator who will report to the community empowerment board, which is chaired by the Vice President, will be appointed to work on the ground with you in St. Petersburg. And I'd also like to see the necessary steps taken to put together a local advisory board with broad-based membership as outlined in the memo.

I think that this is going to be a difficult period for you, but I am very impressed by the work you've done, Mr. Mayor, and those who are supporting you. And I am confident that you can work through this. We want to be a good partner to you.

I want to thank all the Florida officials who have supported this. Governor Chiles is not on the phone today, but he talked to me about this extensively—he and the Lt. Governor did—when I was with them. And Senator Graham is here with me, and we had a long talk about it the last time I was in Florida. And I thank Congressman Young and Congressman Bilirakis for being on the phone. But most of all, we're proud to assist you. We know this is your challenge and your future, but we think we've got a good plan, and we want to be a good partner.

And I'd like to ask the Vice President just to say a word, and then perhaps the others who are here will be able to speak as well.

*[At this point, the Vice President, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros, Senator Bob Graham, Representative C.W. Bill Young, Representative Michael Bilirakis, and Mayor David J. Fischer made*

*brief remarks on the St. Petersburg empowerment zone initiative.]*

**The President.** Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I know you've got some other community leaders there, and let me just say to all of them, we're pulling for you. We appreciate what you're going through. We want to be here to support you. We know that you can realize your vision of how you want your community to work, how you want people to feel who are living there, and we're determined to stay with you all the way through.

Thank you very much, Mr. Mayor, again, for contacting me, for coming to see me, and for making me aware of the situation. We're going to keep going, and we'll be there with you every step of the way.

**Mayor Fischer.** Well, thank you very much. We appreciate you calling us this morning, and your response has been overwhelming.

Thank you.

**The President.** Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Goodbye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:50 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Lawton Chiles and Lt. Gov. Buddy MacKay of Florida.

### **Remarks Prior to a Briefing on AIDS Research and an Exchange With Reporters**

*December 3, 1996*

**The President.** As all of you know, this is World AIDS Awareness Week—and you also know I'm a little hoarse. I'm very excited about the progress we've made in the last 4 years. I'm determined to keep pressing until we have a vaccine and ultimately a cure.

And I'd like to ask the Vice President to sort of take over for me with the opening remarks, and then we'll hear from Secretary Shalala. We have some of our Nation's top health officials—our top public health officials here. I thank them for coming, for their work, and I'd like to ask the Vice President to speak.

**The Vice President.** Thank you very much, Mr. President.

As you can tell, the President needs to conserve his vocal cords a little bit. He's had quite a lot to say about this topic of AIDS over the last 4 years, especially internally with this tremendous team that Secretary Shalala has pulled together and led on the President's behalf. And this is one of several briefings that the President has had periodically on the progress our country is making against HIV/AIDS.

And the experts here will provide some statistics to back these assertions up. But let me just briefly, on behalf of the President, note that this administration has presided over a 40 percent increase in NIH-supported AIDS research, a 158 percent increase in Ryan White AIDS treatment grants, a 24 percent increase in CCC HIV prevention activities, a 96 percent increase for HUD's housing opportunities for people with AIDS program. He has greatly strengthened the office of AIDS research at NIH, and as a result of public health service guidelines recommending the use of AZT by HIV-positive pregnant women and their newborns, there has been a very encouraging 17 percent drop in the number of infants with perinatally acquired HIV infections—those are the last statistics available from '94 to '95—also responding rapidly to FDA approval of a new class of AIDS therapies called protease inhibitors, with increases in funding for State AIDS drug assistance programs.

We have eased Social Security disability rules to speed approval of eligibility. And of course, the President created the Office of National AIDS Policy at the White House and the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

Last year, at the White House Conference on HIV and AIDS, the President asked me to preside over an effort to look for ways to overcome obstacles in developing new therapeutics, vaccines, and microbicides to combat HIV and AIDS. And we have achieved a great deal since last year. Working with this team here today, we convene meetings that led to the establishment of the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research. And I'm proud that the participants in this forum, AIDS clinicians, researchers, drug companies, insurance companies, and patient advocacy groups, have all expressed their belief that

this has become an unprecedented and productive forum for discussing the future of HIV research.

These new scientific advancements in HIV and AIDS treatment light optimism and hope in the AIDS community for people with AIDS and their families. So this is a very positive report this year. And many are now feeling that there is cause for more optimism in the near future.

Through collaborative efforts like this new forum, and the cooperative efforts of the Government and private sector researchers, we'll continue the fight for better and more affordable prevention strategies, vaccines, and microbicides. We will not forget the children. The President is personally committed to focusing this research effort on the crying need to develop pediatric applications of these prevention and treatment strategies and products. And we've all talked a great deal about how to do that.

Working with our team assembled here and with our partners in research, we will continue to knock down every barrier to the development of successful therapeutics, vaccines, and microbicides until we knock down the last barrier of all, the HIV virus itself.

Now, on behalf of the President, I want to turn this over to Secretary Donna Shalala to expand on the administration's efforts to defeat this terrible disease.

*[At this point, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala began the AIDS briefing. While she retrieved a chart for the briefing, the following exchange took place.]*

#### **Political Strategist James Carville**

**Q.** Mr. President, can you tell us how you feel about James Carville's effort to mount an offensive on your behalf?

**The President.** I can't comment.

**Q.** You're not going to talk to him about it?

**Q.** How's the Cabinet going?

**Q.** Any decisions, sir?

#### **The President's Voice**

**Q.** When can we expect an announcement? Are you glad you've lost your voice? *[Laughter]*

**The President.** It's a hoax. *[Laughter]*

**Q.** We suspected as much, sir. *[Laughter]*

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

**Executive Order 13029—  
Implementing, for the United States,  
the Provisions of Annex 1 of the  
Decision Concerning Legal Capacity  
and Privileges and Immunities,  
Issued by the Council of Ministers of  
the Conference on Security and  
Cooperation in Europe on  
December 1, 1993**

*December 3, 1996*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 422 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103–236), and in order to implement for the United States, the provisions of Annex 1 of the decision concerning Legal Capacity and Privileges and Immunities (“Annex”), issued by the Council of Ministers of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe on December 1, 1993, in accordance with the terms of that Annex, it is hereby ordered that the privileges and immunities set forth in the Annex are extended to the personnel and institutions described therein. Effective January 1, 1995, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe will henceforth be called the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
December 3, 1996.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,  
11 a.m., December 4, 1996]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on December 5.

**Executive Order 13028—Further  
Amendments to Executive Order No.  
12757—Implementation of the  
Enterprise for the Americas  
Initiative**

*December 3, 1996*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, as amended, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104–107), it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1.** *Amendment of Executive Order No. 12757.* Executive Order No. 12757, “Implementation of the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative,” as amended by Executive Order No. 12823, is further amended as follows:

(a) The Preamble is amended:

(1) by striking “and” after “Public Law 102–237”; and

(2) by inserting “, and section 571 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1996 (“Public Law 104–107”)” after “Public Law 102–549”.

(b) Section 1 is amended:

(1) by striking “and” after “ATDA Act” the first time it appears, and inserting instead a comma (“,”);

(2) by inserting “, and section 571(a)(1) of Public Law 104–107” after “FAA” the first time it appears; and

(3) by inserting “. The functions vested in the President by section 571(a)(2), (c) and (d) of Public Law 104–107 are also delegated to the Secretary, who shall exercise such functions in accordance with recommendations of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary of State” after “State” the first time it appears.

(c) Section 6 is redesignated as Section 7.

(d) A new Section 6 is added as follows:  
“**Sec. 6.** Any references in this order to section 571, or any subsection of section 571, of Public Law 104–107 shall be deemed to include references to any hereinafter-enacted provision of law